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**Mr. Don Hultman**  
**Refuge Manager**  
**Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge**  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**51 East Fourth Street**  
**Winona, MN 55987**

**Dear Mr. Hultman,**

**I am currently serving as the Conservation Director of the Wisconsin Bass Federation. We are a 1200 member organization with 73 clubs thru out the State of Wisconsin.**

**Earlier this summer I attended the CCP workshop in Winona, MN. On behalf of the Wisconsin Bass Federation I would like to comment on the refuge CCP.**

**It is the opinion of many of our members that this plan when enacted unfairly singles out the fishing public {especially bass fisherman}. As you know the refuge probably offers some of the best fishing anywhere in the United States.**

**Some of the issues that concern us are the numerous closed areas and trolling motor only areas the service has proposed in alternative D. We have to assume alternative D is the preferred alternative as it is the most restrictive.**

**One example of a closed area would be Big Lake on pool 4. This huge area is a very popular fishing destination in the fall of the year. To totally eliminate all fishing, hunting, and motorized access to this area is simply unacceptable! I believe it could cause some huge safety concerns as well. If this plan were enacted, hunters and fishermen would be confined to a small area south of the hwy 25-dike road. This could create tension between the duck hunters and fisherman and be a safety hazard. Also given the fact that Big Lake is a very large body of water, I believe the no motor rule creates a very dangerous situation if someone were to get stranded or capsized a canoe.**

**Another concern would be the trolling motor only areas. Some of the backwater areas are so completely filled with vegetation a trolling motor alone couldn't propel a modern fishing boat thru it. And how many flat bottom boats do you see on the river with a trolling motor? At the meeting in Winona, when I asked why the service was proposing these areas the answer I got was to offer solitude to those folks using the backwater areas. However, it doesn't matter where you are in those areas, you can still hear the cabin cruisers, barges, and trains. This regulation to us does nothing more than keeps us out.**

**Also how will the refuge rules coincide with the State of Wisconsin jurisdiction? One can hardly believe that the State could rewrite their laws to match the refuge regulations.**

**In this plan there doesn't seem to be anything to enhance fishing opportunities on the refuge. There is nothing regarding the challenges of invasive exotic species. There is nothing that addresses aquatic habitat, fishing and access. I hope that as the service drafts alternative E they will consider the fishing public.**

**In closing, I would like to thank you and your staff for the time and effort you have put into this CCP. We all know there are many user groups tugging at this resource and it is a huge challenge to balance**

the user groups and maintain the overall ecosystem of the refuge. So as we move forward we need to make sure we have got it right.

*Sincerely*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Snow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end of the word "Snow".

**Ken Snow**  
**Conservation Director**  
**Wisconsin Bass Federation**  
**W4703 850<sup>th</sup> Ave.**  
**Spring Valley, WI 54767**